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CORNELL NOTETAKING

Key Words

1. Use wheel for transportation
2. Improve the process of pottery making
3. Produce copper in quantities large enough to make tools
4. Irrigate fields
5. Study the stars
6. Develop engineering skills
7. Develop an efficient numbering system

Main Ideas/Supporting Ideas

- Used in Mesopotamia c. 3250 B.C
- First used to make pottery, still used today
- Later used with plows, carts, or chariots
- Vehicles pulled donkeys/oxen
- Addition to the potter's wheel, Sumerian's used a kiln
- Produce very high temperatures in a kiln pottery/bricks are harder than a dried sun.
- Combined copper with tin to make bronze
- Used to produce tools that were stronger than is made of copper alone
- Superior tools got Sumerians to build bigger and stronger boats/vehicles
- Improved transportation allowed Sumerians to trade in faraway places
- May have carried water to their fields
- Dug channels and canals which allowed water to flow straight to fields
- Priests calculated the best times for tiling the fields. Planting and harvesting crops
- Created a calendar: two seasons, summer and winter
- Twelve months of thirty days
- Mathematics used to build huge temples and complex systems of canals, dikes, and ditches
- Number system based on sixty, used by mathematician and astronomers until 1600's
- Still used today for measuring angles and time.
- Cities grew and the need to keep track of economic activities increased, developed a system, separated symbol of item from the amount
- Represented by the symbol for five and symbol of oil
- This new system was helpful when dealing with large quantities

Connections and Reflections (Summary)

Back then, Sumerians developed many things that we still use today. Today, we still study the stars and make pottery. We use the wheel for transportation which brings us to different places, for example a car today uses the wheel.